

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 26**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro**  
**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Huffman)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)

September 9, 2009

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 26—Relative to climate change.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 26, as introduced, Chesbro. Climate change.

This measure would request the Congress of the United States to establish a comprehensive framework and funding for natural resources adaptation for the protection and conservation of our nation's wildlife, habitats, coasts, watersheds, rivers, and other natural resources and ecosystems in the face of climate change.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On June 26, 2009, the United States House of  
2 Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security  
3 Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454) that includes a comprehensive natural  
4 resource adaptation program and allocates funds to states that adopt  
5 a natural resource adaption plan to address the impacts of climate  
6 change on natural resources within the state's jurisdiction; and  
7 WHEREAS, Climate change presents the most pressing threat  
8 to California's natural resources in the 21st century; and  
9 WHEREAS, California's natural resources provide for and  
10 protect the health of our human populations by providing necessary  
11 food and water, flood and erosion barriers, disease control,  
12 atmospheric carbon removal and storage, and many useful products

1 from our oceans, forests, grasslands, and agricultural landscapes;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, California's economy is linked to the health and  
4 vitality of our natural resources, which support the state's valuable  
5 agricultural, outdoor recreation, tourism, and other industries; and

6 WHEREAS, Recognizing the need to quickly and significantly  
7 address climate change, the California Legislature passed, and the  
8 Governor signed, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006,  
9 which requires robust greenhouse gas emission reductions; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite the success of efforts to reduce greenhouse  
11 gas emissions, previous and current emissions have created  
12 unavoidable climate change impacts that threaten our natural  
13 resources, human communities, and economy; and

14 WHEREAS, California is experiencing these climate change  
15 impacts, including documented temperature increases, earlier snow  
16 melt, increased wildfire occurrence, sea level rise, rainfall changes,  
17 severe weather, and migration of plant and animal species; and

18 WHEREAS, Projected future climate change impacts to  
19 California's natural resources and human health over the next  
20 century are dramatic and include increased climate-related human  
21 mortality, destruction of manmade infrastructure, high intensity  
22 wildfires, increased flooding, increased drought, reduced snowpack,  
23 decreased water supply and quality, altered timing of essential  
24 ecosystem functions, food supply disruption, increased sea level  
25 rise, and increased extinction of fish, wildlife, and plants; and

26 WHEREAS, Climate change impact adaptation planning and  
27 program implementation is essential to guard against these  
28 catastrophic natural, human, and economic impacts; and

29 WHEREAS, California recognizes the need for cost-effective,  
30 comprehensive action to guard against climate change impacts to  
31 our state's natural resources, human population, and economy and,  
32 in coordination with efforts targeting greenhouse gas mitigation  
33 policies, is developing a statewide climate adaptation strategy to  
34 help the state prepare for these climate change impacts; and

35 WHEREAS, A comprehensive federal framework and funding  
36 for climate change adaptation is of special interest to the state  
37 because of the particular threats climate change poses to  
38 California's natural resources, people, and economy; now,  
39 therefore, be it

1     *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
2     *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
3     respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States  
4     establish a comprehensive framework and funding for natural  
5     resources adaptation for the protection and conservation of our  
6     nation's wildlife, habitats, coasts, watersheds, rivers, and other  
7     natural resources and ecosystems in the face of climate change;  
8     and be it further

9     *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
10    of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
11    States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each  
12    Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the  
13    United States, to the Secretary of the Interior, to the Secretary of  
14    Agriculture, to the Secretary of Commerce, and to the  
15    Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
16    Administration.